

I CLAIM:

1. A process for reducing the antigenicity of proteins in latex sap comprising:

contacting a sufficient amount of an aldehyde with an antigenic latex protein to react with and cross-link the protein so as to significantly reduce the antigenicity of the protein.

2. A process for reducing the antigenicity of proteins in latex sap comprising:

forming a solution of a latex sap containing an antigenic protein, and

adding a sufficient amount of an aldehyde to react with and cross-link the protein so as to significantly reduce the antigenicity of the protein.

3. A latex sap produced by the process according to claim 2.
4. The process as defined in Claim 1, wherein said aldehyde is a mono-aldehyde or a dialdehyde.
5. The process as defined in Claim 3, wherein said dialdehyde is glutaraldehyde.
6. The process as defined in Claim 3, wherein said mono-aldehyde is formaldehyde.

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- 7./ A process for making a latex product with reduced antigenicity from latex sap containing antigenic proteins, comprising:

forming a solution of said latex sap,
applying a sufficient amount of an aldehyde to a surface of the product to react with and cross-link the protein so as to significantly reduce the antigenicity of the protein,
shaping said latex sap into a product, and
vulcanizing said product.

8. The process as defined in Claim 7, wherein said aldehyde is a mono-aldehyde or a dialdehyde.
9. The process as defined in Claim 8, wherein said dialdehyde is glutaraldehyde.
10. The process as defined in Claim 8 wherein said mono-aldehyde is formaldehyde.

- 11./ A process for making a latex product with reduced antigenicity from latex sap containing antigenic proteins, comprising:

forming a solution of said latex sap,
shaping said latex sap into a product,
vulcanizing said product, and

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applying a sufficient amount of an aldehyde to a surface of the product to react with and cross-link the protein so as to significantly reduce the antigenicity of the protein.

12. The process as defined in Claim 11, wherein said aldehyde is a mono-aldehyde or a dialdehyde.
13. The process as defined in Claim 12, wherein said dialdehyde is glutaraldehyde.
14. The process as defined in Claim 12 wherein said mono-aldehyde is formaldehyde.
15. A latex product produced by the process according to claim 7.
16. A latex product produced by the process according to claim 11.
17. In a process for making a latex product from the latex sap of the *Hevea brasiliensis* plant containing antigenic proteins which cause allergic reactions to persons coming into contact with said latex product, comprising;
forming a solution of said latex sap, shaping said latex sap into a product and vulcanizing said product, the improvement comprising the step of reacting said proteins

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present in said latex sap with a sufficient amount of an aldehyde to react with and cross-link said proteins, so as to significantly reduce the allergenicity of said latex product.

18. The process as defined in Claim 17, wherein said aldehyde is a mono-aldehyde or a dialdehyde.
19. The process as defined in Claim 18, wherein said dialdehyde is glutaraldehyde.
20. The process as defined in Claim 18, wherein said mono-aldehyde is formaldehyde.

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